

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1715

To coordinate the Federal Government's response to communities that are adversely impacted by the closure or significant downsizing of a plant or industry located in the community.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 1998

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To coordinate the Federal Government's response to communities that are adversely impacted by the closure or significant downsizing of a plant or industry located in the community.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stabilizing Workforce
5 and Towns Act of 1998”.

6 **SEC. 2. COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE FOR COMMU-** 7 **NITY ASSISTANCE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SWAT TEAM RESPONSE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce,
2 in consultation with the President’s Economic Ad-
3 justment Committee, shall ensure that a Stabilizing
4 Workforce and Towns Team (in this Act referred to
5 as a “SWAT Team”) is mobilized and that such
6 team travels to a community in need (as defined in
7 section 3) not later than 3 days after an application
8 for assistance is received by that Secretary in ac-
9 cordance with paragraph (2).

10 (2) APPLICATION.—For purposes of paragraph
11 (1), the application for assistance shall be submitted
12 by the Governor of the State in which the commu-
13 nity that is requesting assistance under this Act is
14 located and shall contain such information as the
15 Secretary of Commerce may require in order to de-
16 termine whether the area is a community in need.

17 (3) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall not
18 provide a SWAT Team response under this Act un-
19 less the Secretary determines that the area under
20 consideration for such response is a community in
21 need.

22 (b) SWAT TEAM MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—A SWAT Team shall be
24 composed of a representative from each of the fol-
25 lowing agencies:

1 (A) The Department of Commerce.

2 (B) The Department of Education.

3 (C) The Department of Health and
4 Human Services.

5 (D) The Department of Housing and
6 Urban Development.

7 (E) The Department of Justice.

8 (F) The Department of Labor.

9 (G) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

10 (H) The Small Business Administration.

11 The representative of the Department of Commerce
12 shall be the team leader of the SWAT Team.

13 (2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—In addition to the
14 representatives described in paragraph (1), a SWAT
15 Team shall be composed of a representative from
16 any of the following agencies if the team leader of
17 the team determines that such representation is ap-
18 propriate in order to carry out the duties of the
19 SWAT Team:

20 (A) The Department of Agriculture.

21 (B) The Department of Energy.

22 (C) The Department of the Interior.

23 (D) The Department of Treasury.

24 (E) The Office of Management and
25 Budget.

1 (F) Any other Federal agency.

2 (c) DUTIES OF SWAT TEAM.—The SWAT Team
3 shall have the following duties:

4 (1) To establish operations in a public building
5 in the community in need and maintain such oper-
6 ations for a minimum of 5 days.

7 (2) To provide to individuals residing in the
8 community in need information and materials that
9 describe all relevant Federal assistance programs
10 available and the process for applying for such as-
11 sistance. The SWAT Team shall also make available
12 the applications for such assistance.

13 (3) To provide information to individuals resid-
14 ing in the community in need regarding additional
15 resources available to such individuals to address
16 their economic needs.

17 (4) To designate a member of the SWAT Team
18 as a liaison to the community in need. Such member
19 shall be designated before the SWAT Team termi-
20 nates operations in the community and shall con-
21 tinue to provide advise to the community regarding
22 the long-term recovery of the community.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY IN NEED.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act, the term “community
25 in need” means an area that the Secretary of Commerce

1 determines, using the criteria described in subsection (b),
 2 is experiencing a sudden and severe dislocation because
 3 of the closure or significant downsizing of a plant or indus-
 4 try located in the area.

5 (b) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF SUDDEN AND
 6 SEVERE ECONOMIC DISLOCATION.—The criteria described
 7 in this subsection are that an area must show actual or
 8 threatened permanent job losses that exceed the following
 9 threshold criteria:

10 (1) AREAS LOCATED IN METROPOLITAN STATIS-
 11 TICAL AREAS.—For an area located in a Metropoli-
 12 tan Statistical Area, if the unemployment rate of the
 13 Metropolitan Statistical Area in which the area is lo-
 14 cated—

15 (A) is greater than the national average,
 16 the dislocation must be equal to or greater than
 17 the lesser of—

18 (i) 0.5 percent of the employed popu-
 19 lation in the area; or

20 (ii) 4,000 direct jobs; or

21 (B) is equal to or less than the national
 22 average, the dislocation must be equal to or
 23 greater than the lesser of—

24 (i) 1 percent of the employed popu-
 25 lation in the area; or

1 (ii) 8,000 direct jobs.

2 (2) AREAS NOT LOCATED IN METROPOLITAN
3 STATISTICAL AREAS.—For an area that is not lo-
4 cated in a Metropolitan Statistical Area, if the un-
5 employment rate of the Labor Market Area in which
6 the area is located—

7 (A) is greater than the national average,
8 the dislocation must be equal to or greater than
9 the lesser of—

10 (i) 2 percent of the employed popu-
11 lation in the area; or

12 (ii) 500 direct jobs; or

13 (B) is equal to or less than the national
14 average, the dislocation must be equal to or
15 greater than the lesser of—

16 (i) 4 percent of the employed popu-
17 lation in the area; or

18 (ii) 1,000 direct jobs.

19 (3) PERCENT OF JOB LOSS RATIO.—At least 50
20 percent of the job loss ratio threshold is the result
21 of the action of a single employer, or at least 80 per-
22 cent of the job loss threshold occurs in a single
23 standard industry classification.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
3 completion of a SWAT Team response in a community
4 in need, the SWAT Team shall submit a report to Con-
5 gress, the community in need’s congressional delegation,
6 and the President’s Economic Adjustment Committee.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection
8 (a) shall contain a detailed description of the assistance
9 provided by the SWAT Team, recommendations regarding
10 assistance to be provided by SWAT Teams in future re-
11 sponses, information regarding the long-term recovery
12 plan for the community in need, and any other informa-
13 tion regarding the provision of Federal assistance to com-
14 munities in need, including community applications for
15 Federal assistance, that the team determines to be appro-
16 priate.

17 (c) REPORT ON FILE.—A copy of the report de-
18 scribed in subsection (a) shall be maintained on file by
19 the Secretary of Commerce for use as a resource to assist
20 similarly impacted communities in the future.

21 (d) CENTRALIZED LOCATION.—The Secretary of
22 Commerce shall maintain all SWAT Team reports in a
23 centralized location and shall make such reports available
24 to the public.

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